

WHAT IS YOUR ATTITUDE ABOUT SIN? (PART 2)

By Keith Greer

"Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness. And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin." {1 John 3:4,5}

Sin is sin. And yet, many of God's children have convinced themselves that God overlooks "little sins". God makes no distinction between degrees of sins. All sin has the same consequences - death - if we do not repent of that sin.

"Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death. Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren." (James 1: 12-16)

Another favorite doctrine among some brethren is that of "umbrella grace". Supposedly, under this theory, these are sins we didn't "mean" to commit, or, don't have time to ask for forgiveness, and, therefore, the "continual" blood of Jesus cleanses us from those sins. 1 John 1:7 is often used to support this theory, but unfortunately, my brethren err not knowing the scriptures! If we read the context of I John 1, then we will see that in order for the blood of Jesus to cleanse our sins, we must be in fellowship with God.

"If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:6-9)

Sin is the transgression of the law, and we have no authority for "lessening" the teaching God has given us through His word. "For ... If the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?" (1 Peter 4: 18)

Unfortunately, whenever this topic is discussed some want to throw in that those who oppose such conclusions believe in "perfect obedience." Such accusations are often without merit. All of God's people must constantly and faithfully strive to not commit sin. Yet, we will not always be successful. Did God know this? Yes! "My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world." (1 John 2:1,2)

God continually has taught in His word that men must always strive to be obedient and cease committing sin. "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?" (Romans 6:1,2)

Our Lord said it this way ... "A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit ... Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them." (Matthew 7: 18-20) James said the same thing in James 3:10. The Christian must have an abhorrence for sin and do all in his power to avoid stepping in its path!

May God help each of us to see that the proper attitude towards sin is to HATE IT! "Through Your precepts I get understanding; Therefore I hate every false way." (Psalm 119:104) Brethren, do you have the proper attitude toward this thing called SIN? ***